

I've Became Able to Do Anything with My
Growth Cheat, but I Can't Seem to Get out of
Being Jobless

Arc 9 - Desert Kingdom Arc

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[Novel Updates](#)

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(218) Prologue

The camel she was riding on foamed at its mouth and collapsed. As suspected, the arrow it was shot with just now was coated with poison.

Abandoning the camel that could no longer be used, she carried her baggage over her shoulder and started walking.

“Please wait for me, Father. Shumei will definitely live to fulfil my role.”

She said with her teeth clenched as she advanced step by step.

Even though the season had just entered summer, the ambient temperature had already reached 40 degrees Celsius. Heat would enter her body every time she took a breath. Sweat entered her eyes but she didn't wipe it off as she advanced in a straight path.

There was almost no water left in her water bag.

In order to cross 10 kilometers, she could not drink water there.

Once it entered night time, the monsters would appear from their lairs and run rampant in the desert expanse. That was not a place where regular humans could tread. Because of that, she could not rest if she wished to reach a town before nightfall.

The only thing she could do was to just continue walking.

But she was not even allowed to do so.

A sand cloud rose from the sand behind her.

It was proof that the reptile-type monster capable of running on sand, the Desert Runner, was approaching her. More than a hundred years ago, the Desert Runner laid waste to the desert as wild monsters and was a feared monster gang in the desert at that time but Desert Runners in the wild have become extinct in recent years and were currently used as riding beast along with camels in the desert.

Help was here — she was not optimistic enough to think that. That location

was a distance away from the main road and furthermore, she heard that it was the turf of the bandit group 'Sand Scorpion'. Most likely —

“Hyaha, what is a cute girl like you doing alone in a place like this?”

“Boss, she looks like a great woman. Maybe we can sell her to the slave merchant for a large sum?”

“Idiot, don't forget that I will have to taste her first!”

“As expected of boss! So sleazy!”

Men easily taken to be bandits manipulated the Desert Runners and wrapped in front of her.

“Pl-please let me pass. Please. I will give you money if that is what you want.”

She said as she took out the bag containing her coins from her luggage.

“Oo, money? Money is good, I'll be taking that.”

The man called the bandit boss took the money bag while chuckling to himself.

However —

“I don't just want money, you won't have to feel pain if you obediently put down all your luggage too.”

After keeping the bag filled with coins, the boss immediately grabbed her wrist.

“Please let go of me! Please!”

“Oo, I will let go! After I put this on you.”

The man took out a collar.

That was called a slave collar and a magic tool used to make a person a slave. After having that put on her and registering a master, she would not be able to go against the words of that master.

“N-no. If I wear something like that —”

“Hey now, don't resist! It will be over soon, hehehe.”

The man showed a sleazy look but the difference in their strength was too

much even if she tried to resist.

If this goes on —

“Erm, sorry for interrupting your capture.”

... Eh?

She wasn't the only person at a loss for words as the bandit also loosened his grip for a moment.

The person who spoke was a black-haired guy about 20 years of age holding not a single weapon. He was also riding on a Desert Runner like the bandits but when exactly did he show up?

“I can kind of tell — that this is a scene where three bandits are trying to force a sinless girl into slavery.”

It seemed like he was not a bandit.

She wanted to ask for his help but she quickly reconsidered. Looking closely, the man wasn't holding a single weapon at all — he didn't seem to be the companion of the bandits.

“And so what are you getting at? Huh, mister.”

“No, well, I am being chased by a monster so I was thinking that I might trouble you guys ...”

“Monster?”

The bandit was thinking it was dubious when it happened.

The earth was swallowed inward and a huge monster appeared.

“N-no ... no way — Sand Wyrmling?”

Called the master of the desert, the Sand Wyrmling that swallows everything.

With the appearance of an enormous earthworm, the monster said to not leave a single blade of grass behind wherever it passes by was currently at that location.

“— Runnnnn!”

The bandits immediately fled in the opposite direction from the Sand Wyrmling.

“Hey, wait! That place is!”

It happened when the man shouted.

A sand pillar burst forth.

The second Sand Wyrms appeared and swallowed all the bandits in the blink of the eye.

Even though one would have to be prepared for death with just a single Sand Wyrms, a second Sand Wyrms had actually appeared.

“Sheesh, that’s why I told them not to go there — Hmm, are you from around here?”

“Eh? Yes — yes but ...”

“Is there a legend or something stating that the Sand Wyrms is the guardian deity of this land? Or that it is a beneficial monster to the land like the Tubifex worm at Ferruite?”

“No, there are no such stories.”

“I see — then there won’t be any issue if I kill them.”

Immediately after he said that.

She felt that she was dreaming.

That was because the next instant, the two Sand Wyrms were encased in ice.

“ ... I don’t know who you are but — please. The letter in my luggage — please send it to the Marquis Hydor.”

Her consciousness turned hazy.

Please — at this rate, the Demon Lord — the Demon Lord.

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Oh man, who is Marquis Hydor?

Before I could ask that, the girl, whose name I don’t even know, collapsed.

I could not abandon her in the middle of the desert so for now, I laid her down on a deck chair and erected a parasol.

(As expected of Miri's item bag — are you treating this like a resort beach?)
Inside my younger sister's item bag was a mountain load of 'Made in Earth' items.

Also, in order to lower the surrounding temperature, “「Slash」”

I sliced the frozen Sand Wurm into pieces with sword art.

At any rate — I investigated the girl's job.

【Noble: Lv2】

Sheesh, rescuing a noble girl the moment I enter the desert, am I some protagonist from a novel?

It only felt like trouble.

(219) Desert aristocrat

I shifted the angle of the parasol to follow the movement of the sun. The surrounding temperature had fallen considerably thanks to the fragments of frozen Sand Wyrms. If allowed to continue to melt, it would probably turn into a grotesque scene from a splatter movie so I decided to bury them in the sand before the young girl woke up.

In addition, I'll be able to prevent the danger of heatstroke as long as I let her drink water but forcibly making the unconscious girl drink water comes with the danger of pulmonary aspiration and judging from her complexion, her condition was not that severe so I decided to wait for her to wake up.

"Hn ... where ..."

The young girl said the template opening line. It seemed like she had regained her consciousness.

She slowly got up and slapped my face twice.

"..... It doesn't hurt, I guess this is a dream."

"No, my cheek is the one hurting."

"It isn't a dream then if it hurts."

The girl placed both her hands on my cheeks as she stared at me with a vacant expression.

The atmosphere felt like she was about to kiss me but her eyes gradually regained life.

At that moment, she finally realized what she had done.

She removed her hands in panic,

"S-sorry. Erm ... where am I?"

"This is the center of the desert. You were being chased by bandits ... do you remember that?"

“Th-that’s right ... Eh? Then, where are the bandits? What about the Sand Wyrms?”

She tilted her head and asked.

It seemed like she was missing her memories from before she lost consciousness.

“Rather, sorry for the delay. I am Yu·Harel. I was in the midst of my journey to the town of Gagarian to the northwest when I was attacked by the tribe that calls the desert ruins their home.”

“Wow so polite. My name is Ichinojo — well, you can say that I am a traveling Swordsman.”

Since the opposite party was nobility, I answered slightly more politely. I called myself a Swordsman because I had set my job as Swordsman for others to see.

That was also thanks to Miri’s souvenir. My Jobless job was forged to become Swordsman Lv23 and it even deposited the job certificate in my item bag.

I wondered just how did she prepare such fake identities?

“Please, you don’t have to use honorifics. Ichinojo-sama seems to be older than me and furthermore, you are my life savior. Moreover, I do not come from a family that necessitates the use of honorifics.”

Harel said with a slight smile. But her job was Noble though?

Hn — it seemed like she wished to hide her identity.

Seeing how she wasn’t acting almighty showed that she was different from the only other noble I knew — Oregeru.

“Okay, Harel.”

I said and extended my hand to her. She glanced at my hand and shook it with a smile.

“Coincidentally, I am also on my way to Gagarian Town so perhaps we could travel together?”

“Are you sure?”

“Of course.”

I whistled and the Desert Runner raced over. I saw the ice fragment of the Sand Wyrms I defeated inside its mouth.

(Hurry up and swallow it.)

I whispered to the Desert Runner and it quickly ate it.

Seriously, this glutton.

“Ichinojo-sama, what’s the matter?”

“No, it’s nothing. Let’s get moving.”

If we don’t leave anytime soon, the Sand Wyrms would begin melting. Even if they have been buried under sand, the smell would still seep through.

I wiped the mouth of the Desert Runner that finally finished its food and stored the parasol and deckchair in my item bag.

I then jumped onto the Desert Runner and extended my hand to Hariel.

Hariel grabbed onto my hand and sat behind me.

“This Desert Runner is quite strong.”

“Yeah, it is a big eater though. Nobody was willing to buy it so I ended up buying it at a cheap price.”

“What kind of business do you have at Gagarian Town?”

“There is a dungeon in Gagarian Town. I heard that by defeating the legendary monster called the Sand Scorpion in it, I could acquire a convenient job that would make it easier to cross the desert.”

Crossing the desert was difficult.

Firstly, it was hot. In general, the South Continent had higher temperatures but that was further elevated in the desert.

Moreover, carriages were unusable. The sand would drag the wheels and increase the burden on the horses.

For that sake, Desert Runners were needed to cross the desert but even that had disadvantages. They were voracious eaters. The carnivorous Desert

Runners could smell monsters 10 kilometers away. And once they get to a certain degree of hunger, they would ignore their owner's orders and head toward monsters.

I had an item bag so I could carry meat with me but ordinary people were unable to travel with large amounts of meat. That was because it might actually attract other monsters to them.

In the end, Desert Runners became mounts for adventurers hunting for monsters. Incidentally, the tamer uncle who sold me the Desert Runner laughed as he commented that the bandits also used Desert Runners — but those Desert Runners ate human meat more often than monster meat. Although I failed to find it funny.

The desert was that troublesome but crossing the desert would instantly become a breeze once I get the Sand Drifter job.

And so I heard the condition was found in Gagarian Town's labyrinth.

Furthermore, the Gagarian Town Labyrinth was under the jurisdiction of Libra-sama. I wanted to talk to her if it was possible.

"Er ... erm. Ichinojo-sama, I wish to ask. Was Ichinojo-sama the one who defeated the bandits and Sand Wyrms — "

"Ah ... erm, about that — "

"Or was it your companion?"

... Huh?

Why did it turn into a situation where my companion was the one who defeated the Sand Wyrms?

"I feel that I kind of remember what happened just now but I recall that the Sand Wyrms were defeated by ice magic — but Ichinojo-sama is a Swordsman-sama right? In that case —"

Ah, I see.

It was because I defeated the Sand Wyrms with magic but introduced myself as a Swordsman. That would certainly be unnatural.

“Furthermore, the scales of a Sand Wyrms are extremely tough and I feel that defeating it with that sword is exceedingly difficult —”

“No, it was not my companion. A passing Magician-san defeated them. Amazing right?”

I said with a smile.

Could something so convenient actually happen? I thought to myself even as I said it but Hariel seemed to have been convinced.

“I see ...”

For some reason, Hariel sounded a little disappointed.

Perhaps she was feeling uneasy about leaving her safety to me?

“Well, don’t worry. It is not to the extent of that Magician but I have confidence in my sword skill.”

“Yes, I will look forward to it.”

Hariel said with a lively voice.

She seemed to have special circumstances but I was in the same boat too so we both did not speak about it.

I would be able to enter Gagarian Town with her identity so she was also helping me.

(Moreover, I’m taking separate actions from Haru and the others so I was feeling lonely traveling on my own.) As I urged the Desert Runner forward, I thought about Haru, Carol, and Malina who should still be in the Western Continent as of now.

(220) Sleepless night

Night fell as we were on our way to Gagarian Town.

Desert nights were chilly but they were not that cold.

Today we would have to spend the night out in the center of the desert.

I prepared a bonfire, grilled the fish I caught on the way to this country and ate them.

(... It's a little bland and isn't a particularly tasty fish. It was a little too difficult working with just salt.)

I thought of redoing it as I looked toward Hariel.

"It's very delicious, Ichinojo-sama. Thank you very much, you even used valuable salt in the process."

" ... Is that so? I'm glad."

That was probably not her true feelings. Hariel's expression when she took a bite out of the fish on the stick didn't escape my eyes.

However, in order to respond to my goodwill and to replenish strength to cross the desert, she hid her true feelings and ate the fish.

(She's a good child ... she doesn't display the arrogance of a noble ...)

I looked at my own fish and sank my teeth into it once again.

She's a good child but I don't intend to let her into My World.

I set up the tent I got from Miri's item bag.

"This tent is made from some unusual cloth. It seems very sturdy."

Hariel touched the yellow tent. That was probably because there were no synthetic fiber tents in this world. Or perhaps not, since Daijiro-san invented flying ships, she might have created something as simple as synthetic fiber too.

"Hariel can sleep inside here tonight."

"But I would feel bad for Ichinojo-sama. At least let me act as a lookout."

“Does Hariel have good night vision? Or do you have the Presence Detection skill?”

” ... No, I don’t have either.”

“In that case, leave it to me.”

I said as I threw firewood into the bonfire. Hariel showed an apologetic expression but she was keenly aware that she was not of use so she entered the tent.

The wood crackled in the bonfire.

My Presence Detection skill only detected Hariel inside the tent.

And the presence inside the tent occasionally moved slightly.

It was probably not because she had bad sleeping posture but that she could not fall asleep.

In an unfamiliar wilderness with a guy she met just today beside her.

There was no way she could sleep well in such a situation.

I felt sorry for her but I was glad that she was around.

Traveling on my own was way too lonely.

And at the same time, I found out just how much the company of Haru and the others meant to me.

I recalled the day I parted with Haru and the others as I was on night watch duty.

On that day at Port Kobe.

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“Thank you very much. Seriously thank you so much.”

After returning to Port Kobe, we headed to the Adventurers Guild and passed the special medicine for the petrification disease to the girl who was the client.

Then, the young girl handed me the money.

For me, there was no need to accept the money but it was her goodwill that she did her utmost best for so it would be rude to reject it.

Seriously just when did she ... I thought to myself. In the item bag that Miri left behind, there was the medicine made from Kiriri Grass and even a concisely written prescription with the consumption instructions. And for some reason, there was enough for a hundred people too.

“Quickly go home and treat your mother. Also, I mentioned it just now but the medicine will not show its effects immediately but will only do so after three days of consumption, three times a day, immediately after waking up, in the afternoon and in the evening. But you must make sure your mother continues to drink the medicine for a week.”

“Yes, thank you very much.”

The small girl bowed low and ran off with small strides.

“Master ...”

Haru stood beside me and seemed to want to say something.

“Ah, Haru. I leave it to you. But, don’t overexert yourself.”

A few men inside the Adventurers Guild saw me hand the medicine to the girl and silently stood up from their seats after the girl left.

They probably intended to intercept the medicine.

Haru nodded to my words and followed the men.

Well, if one of the men didn’t have the job 【Thief: Lv13】, I would have totally missed it.

Seriously, there were thieves everywhere. Just how do they get into town?

Maybe she would know more about that. Stepping in to fill Haru’s spot, Carol returned from gathering information.

“Ichino-sama, I’m back.”

“Welcome back, Carol.”

We borrowed a private room from the receptionist and changed the location to that room.

It was a rule that only adventurers could borrow the private room but the receptionist remembered Miri and processed the application assuming that I

was Miri's attendant. The application for the usage of the private room seemed to be quite flexible.

"Haru-san seemed to have left but where was she headed?"

"Just to escort the client for a bit. I believe she would be back soon ... more importantly, how was it?"

"Ichino-sama, the scheduled boats will not set off until next week. In addition, sailing to the South Continent on personal crafts will be dangerous given the situation. The state of affairs in the South Continent is currently not safe. Although, if Ichino-sama uses magic to mow down all the warships that attack us ... it might be possible."

" ... Naturally, I can't do something like that."

If I had to choose if it was possible or impossible, I would say it was possible but I couldn't expose Haru and the others to danger.

I wished to pursue Miri and Daijiro-san that very instant but I guess I would have to wait until next week.

"There's just one other method to travel to the South Continent."

"Really?"

"Yes ... although it is a little dangerous. There's the option of getting hired as a guard for a merchant ship."

Merchant ship guard?

I would certainly be able to reach the South Continent that way but don't I have to go through the Adventurers Guild for such tasks?

Could a non-adventurer like me accept such requests?

Or do I take it using Haru's name?

While I was thinking, Carol whispered to me.

"However, that merchant ship is actually a smuggling vessel."

" — !? 「Silent Room」"

I was about to exclaim in surprise but I swallowed it back and activated the

Silent Room spell suitable for secret talks.

“Smuggling!?”

“Yes, during this season, due to the fishing of Shijimon Shrimps, even the Pirates would defend the fishing grounds so the merchant ships that usually ask Pirates for escort will not set out. The South Continent is aware of that so their open ocean security would be lax. During that chance, smugglers would conduct their activities.”

” ... So we will be aiding the smugglers.”

I just aided Pirates too but that was their first offense and there was still room for rehabilitation.

If a single person among them had fallen to the Thief job, I would definitely not have helped them.

However, the situation was different for this case. From what I heard, they sounded like a veteran smugglers gang.

“No, it is the opposite. In order to raid the smugglers, we will perform an undercover investigation to acquire information. Ichino-sama can take that role.”

“No no, that’s impossible. There’s no way an ordinary person like me can perform an undercover investigation?”

“I feel that Ichino-sama will be fine. After all, one of the tentative investigators is Suzuki-sama.”

“Suzuki, that Suzuki!?”

Suzuki — the virgin Hero Suzuki.

A Japanese person I once met in the country of Dakyat.

A Paladin who proclaimed himself a Hero and a despicable riajuu who traveled with three beautiful young ladies ... or so I thought but he was actually a guy caught in a hellish circumstance where he was traveling with the three of them but was unable to touch any of them due to various circumstances.

I was certain that he went to clear the landslide at Ferruite but he’s already in

this town?

Just how did he reach Port Kobe from Port Ithaca? I thought to myself but remembered that they had the Wyvern called Pochi. Of course, with a Wyvern, they could travel to coasts near Port Kobe.

“Do you know where Suzuki is now?”

“Yes, luckily, he is living alone in an inn nearby.”

Maybe he was taking separate action from his companions.

“Let’s go right after Haru returns — no, we can’t leave immediately. We still have to wait for Kanon and Norn who are getting our luggage, moreover —”

Dispelling Silent Room, I exited the room to find two unconscious males with Haru dragging them.

It would take a while to gather information on the circumstances.

(221) Offerings to Suzuki

The men Haru dragged over seemed to have really intended to steal the medicine made from Kiriri grass. Apparently, a cure for stiffening disease could sell for quite a sum in the South Continent.

That medicine was actually not only effective on stiffening disease but also petrification disease. Supposedly, they use it to treat people petrified by beasts called Basilisks that inhabit the South Continent desert.

It seemed that the thieves would be punished by the Adventurers Guild and all we got was a paltry reward.

After that, I met up with Kanon, Norn and Marina who carried the luggage and along with Carol and Haru, we headed to the inn Suzuki was staying in. I kind of recall I was told that Suzuki was staying in an inn nearby.

“That doesn’t look like an inn?”

There wasn’t an inn there but a mansion. There wasn’t even a sign for an inn.

The courtyard was spacious, the garden was meticulously maintained and there was even a fountain.

I would have been convinced if you told me a noble lived there.

“This place is used as an assembly hall for the town leaders of this country to gather for a meeting every once a year. Apart from then, the place serves as a charter inn — ”

“But then won’t it be expensive?”

After listening to Carol’s explanation, I asked using the tone of an assistant in a mail order program.

I said it with a strange tone but Carol ignored it and replied.

“It is 30000 sense a night and 10000 sense one time entrance fee. It is three times Carol’s price.”

“A single night is the same price as I am.”

Carol and Haru compared the inn’s price to their own.

No no, I got the two of you for a special price from Matthias and Quince, your normal price is usually much higher.

“Kanon, how much did you pay for me?”

“You were a discount so I got you for 50 sense.”

“Goho!?”

Marina was shocked to hear her own price.

Just what kind of price reduction happened to become 50 sense?

It seemed like it was a common for slaves to make fun of their own prices but feeling the same way as me, Norn and I drew back a little.

Letting the conversation continue any longer would be mentally taxing so I rang the doorbell.

The ringing of the doorbell could be heard at the front of the courtyard but I wondered if it would actually reach the mansion.

Just as I thought about that, the mansion door opened and an old butler

appeared.

【Combat Butler Lv38】

It's been a long time since I've seen the Combat Butler job. In the past, Sebastian, the old butler together with Oregeru, had that job too.

But are there no ordinary butlers in this world?

I thought to myself as that old butler walked over. But his speed was as though he was running.

If he was a race-walking athlete, won't he be the best in the world?

"Do you have any business with our mansion?"

"Erm, I am acquainted with Suzuki, the person living here, so I came here to visit. I believe he will know if you say Kusunoki is here."

"Understood, I will let the master know so please wait here for a moment."

He returned to the mansion using the same speed as before.

"Those movements, he isn't an ordinary person."

"Combat Butlers and Combat Maids have skill called Swift Walk. It is a skill that can achieve the same speed as running at full speed without losing breath while maintaining a walking form."

"Combat Maid!? There are such jobs too? How do you become one?"

"Yes. After registering with the 【Housewife Friends Society】 found throughout the country and training for three months, you will acquire the job called Housework Helper."

Housework Helper ... is that even a job?

I kind of feel that is the same as being jobless though ... Actually, it would be jobless if you're helping with the housework at your own home but I guess it would be a job if you do housework at other people's home.

It would be similar to a Domestic Helper.

"You will be able to acquire Maid after reaching Housework Helper Lv20 and Combat Maid after reaching Swordsman Lv20 and Maid Lv20."

” ... I see, that’s quite a gruelling path. Incidentally, do men become Maids too?”

“Yes. There aren’t many cases but I have heard of them before.”

” ... I see.”

Having men called maids sounded weird to me but I guess it wasn’t strange for her.

So even guys could enter the Housewife Friends Society huh? Well, Japan had househusbands too so I guess it isn’t an issue.

Nevertheless, so this is a world where there might be muscular male maids huh ...?

That’s a little disgusting.

After waiting for a little while, a window on the second floor of the mansion opened and a man jumped out.

The person rolled twice before landing on his feet.

And running over while exuding an aura of handsomeness — Suzuki waved at us. “Kusunoki-kun, it’s been a long time! The same as well for Haurvatat-san, Carol-san and Marina-san.”

“You haven’t changed at all, Suzuki. For now, could we enter instead of talking while standing?”

“Yup, sure, come in. I was just feeling lonely being all on my own. Concierge-san also don’t really speak much.”

So he was really living on his own.

Where are his companions?

I followed Suzuki while holding my queries.

Then, I turned back.

“Marina, what are you doing? We’re going to leave you behind.”

” ... 50 ... sense.”

Marina was still absentminded from the shock of hearing her own price.

We were guided to the reception room of the mansion.

Even though it was just a reception, it was multiple times larger than the family-oriented mansion I stayed in Japan.

“You sure are rolling in gold.”

“Hahaha, you’re wrong. I kind of accepted a request. I can’t let anybody see me before the plan sets in motion so I am hiding here. Kusunoki-kun, I’m surprised you knew that I was here.”

“That’s because I have an excellent information gatherer with me ... so, that request is regarding the seizure of smuggled goods right?”

“Bummer, you even know the details ... where did the information leak from?”

Suzuki muttered worryingly.

I guess it would be worrying if the identity of the undercover investigator for a smuggling job was leaked.

“There are information shops everywhere — but such information shops will never want to turn a country into their enemy so there should be a very low risk that the smugglers would get that information.”

“So you have it — my party’s excellent investigator has spoken so I guess it will be all right?”

Suzuki seemed to relaxed a little after I said that.

“Has the excavation of the landslide already been completed?”

“To the extent to allow carriages to pass. Thanks to that, Pochi could get some rest now.”

Pochi was the name of the Wyvern that traveled together with Suzuki. Because the path was blocked by the landslide, Pochi ferried the pedestrians across the blockage.

“Hey, Kusunoki-kun. I don’t believe you came here just to have idle chats.”

“I’m in a hurry to get to the South Continent. Could I come along for the undercover investigation?”

” ”

Suzuki made a bitter face.

It seemed that it wasn't something he could easily assent to.

But I had a trump card.

“Everyone, sorry but please leave us.”

I requested Haru and the others and they left the room.

“Kusunoki-kun, I want to agree to your request but the more people there are for an undercover investigation, the harder it will be. Even for the undercover investigation this time, I had to slowly gain the trust of the influential underground boss in this town for over a year. If you suddenly came along, that person would not trust you — ”

“What if I have this?”

I took the item out from my item bag.

In Japan, I would generally not have such an item. Because Miri was around, I converted them all into digital format.

However — this was before the data conversion and was the single book hidden below my bed.

Miri stored all our Japan furniture in her dimensional storage and then transferred them to the item bag.

That book accidentally slipped in when she did that.

“This is —”

“Yup, the doujinshi of Japan's famous pirate anime, Nyapiece. Furthermore, it is one from the famous doujinshi circle 【Gremlin】. I'll offer this.”

” ... It's the real deal ... this sensation, it can't be reproduced with the papermaking technology of this world. How long has it been ... since I've seen Japanese characters.”

Suzuki accepted the doujinshi from me as he shed tears.

I guess he misses Japan.

” ... Nyapiece huh? I have not seen it for such a long time, I wonder what has happened.”

“That ended the year before I came to this world.”

“Eh? Erm, what happened in the final episode? Did Buffy become the Pirate King?”

“If you want to know the ending, why not look at this?”

I said as I took out the whole series of Nyapiece from my item bag.

That was also something Miri brought from Japan.

Suzuki stretched his hand towards the 49th volume (I was guessing he had read until the 48th volume) but — I grabbed that hand.

“Sorry but that would have to wait until our negotiation is over.”

“Yes, I promise to help you as much as I can.”

Very good, the contract is established.

Incidentally, I actually wanted to give him the Nyapiece comics instead of just lending it to him.

But Sheena has become addicted to it so she would hate me if I gave it away.

... That girl, she even went to learn Japanese and was in the midst of reading through the whole series.

(222) Preparations for infiltration

Leaving Haru and the others in the mansion, Suzuki and I secretly went to a cheap hotel on the outskirts of town.

Suzuki was walking while reading the comic in blatant violation of manners but nobody reprimanded him.

Waiting there was a familiar face.

” ... It’s been a long time, good-for-nothing-san.”

“Good-for-nothing!?”

I was suddenly shot down with hurtful words.

It hurt even more when those words came from a small kid.

She was Schreyl — Suzuki’s slave — or rather, his companion Sorcerer.

“Schreyl, I am not a good-for-nothing.”

” ... Schreyl’s misconception?”

Without looking at me in the eye, Schreyl pulled the cheek of the bear soft toy she was hugging.

“I will take back saying that you are a good-for-nothing.”

“Thank you.”

“Then, have you found a Job and quit Jobless?”

“Rather than quit, I am kind of challenging the new heights of Jobless.”

After reaching Lvl100 of Jobless, I arrived at the pinnacle for a time. However, thanks to Miri’s limit breaking medicine, I no longer have that upper ceiling so I have stepped onto a new stage.

“I see ... I take back what I took back.”

“You take back what you took back!?”

It seemed like I said more than I should have.

“No, wait. I am working. Lately ... yeah, I’ve been working as a Pirate —”

” ... Ko-oniisan, should we report him immediately?”

Please wait a minute, why would you report me?

Ah, that’s right. Pirates are usually criminals after all. But, Suzuki will definitely explain it properly —

“Hn? Ah, yup. I think that’s a good idea.”

“Suzukiiiiiiii!”

That bastard, he was reading the Nyapièce I passed to him and was totally absentminded!

That was probably a half-hearted reply!

It was a mess after that, she was really about to report me and Suzuki suddenly started crying while reading the comic.

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While returning the comic to Suzuki after he somehow proved my innocence,

“Haha, sorry. Junkas’s lines were way too touching.”

“I don’t deny that but — eh, where did we leave off?”

As Suzuki’s other two female companions — Kyanshi and Miles were also taking independent action, Schreyll was left here as their point of contact. I could understand that but why was I led there?

“To join the smuggling group. Some work is needed after all.”

“Work?”

“To change job. To a job that seems likely to be their companion.”

” —!?”

Don’t tell me, we have to change jobs?

That’s bad. Once I switch Jobless to another job, I can no longer return to my previous job —

(Wait, what am I thinking.)

Compared to getting my hands on a new cheat skill by continuing as Jobless, didn’t I already decide that it was more important to help Miri as soon as possible?

“All right — I’ll change to anything. Hn?”

Wait, then why did we need Schreyll?

All we needed to change job was to find a Priest.

I see, I’m not just changing job. But more importantly, even if we did change jobs, how would the smuggling crew investigate it?

Only my Jobless skill 「Job Appraisal」 could investigate other’s jobs and I don’t believe a person holding that skill would be in that crew. Another item would be

the test when entering a town but that test would only detect nobles, royalty or criminals. We'll have to find a Priest to change job to Peddler while it is impossible to change job to Noble or Royalty.

That leaves, criminal?

That was when the points connected inside my head.

A young girl — and crime.

“You bastard, there’s no way I would assault an innocent girl like her!”

“There’s no way I’d ask you to do that!”

Suzuki instantly denied it.

Yeah, if he actually asked me to do it, I would have beaten Suzuki up.

I would probably be hated by Schreyll but I still would not be able to forgive him.

“If we’re going to do that I should be the one assaulting her!”

” — Don’t say something like that so loudly. So, what are we doing?”

“Kusunoki-kun, do you know about the skill called Status Forgery?”

“Hn? Yeah. I only heard of it recently though.”

It was a skill Miri had.

It could forge a person’s status and falsify the status that others would see.

Miri used that to hide the fact that she was the Demon Lord. And the skill could even be performed on companions too.

“Does Schreyll have that skill?”

“That’s right — furthermore, her clan is one where the members are born with the Status Forgery III skill.”

“Status Forgery III? What kind of effect does it have?”

“In detail, the Status Forgery skill can originally only alter the status of party members. However, Status Forgery II can alter the status of people other than the user themselves and their party members. But the target must remain within a certain distance from the user. The target has to be within 10 meters

from the user or the status forgery would be dispelled.”

” ... I see, then Status Forgery III ... ”

Would it be able to falsify status no matter the distance?

If that’s the case, won’t the person be able to cause world panic if they change all the Royalty and Nobles into Commoners?

Maybe Schreyll’s village was attacked because of their possession of that skill?

“That’s right, it is as Kusunoki-kun has guessed. After faking the status, the forgery would not be undone within 24 hours even if the user and target are separated.”

— That was a lot shabbier than expected.

Well, I would still consider it as a convenient skill. Especially for an undercover investigation like what we were about to do.

“In other words, using Schreyll’s ability, I would fake my Job as a Thief and infiltrate the smuggler crew?”

“That’s right. However, she can only perform status forgery on a person outside the party once at a time. Although I don’t think it would be discovered as Haurvatat-san and the others are slaves, the opponent would be cautious if we turn up with a large number of members.”

“That means the people infiltrating will only be me and Suzuki?”

“Yup, although the plan was for me to go alone — by the way, Kusunoki-kun. Could I ask something?”

“What is it?”

“Why are you in such a rush to reach the Southern Continent? Regular trading ships would set off after some time —”

“Ah, yeah. I don’t know where to explain from but my younger sister has been taken.”

“Your sister-in-law has been taken? You’re married?”

Suzuki curiously asked.

Not my sister-in-law but my real sister — ah, I see.

In the first place, I don't have a younger sister in this world.

“That's not it. She came to this world to pursue me.”

“That — are you serious?”

“Unfortunately.”

Suzuki should be aware too. For a Japanese to come to this world, they would have to die on the other side.

To come here of their own will meant that the person killed themselves.

I guess it would be hard to believe.

“Despite that, she came over to pursue me. That's why, this time, I have to chase after her.”

“All right. But, I think it would be better to file an arrest warrant for the kidnapper.”

“I can't do that. I have no proof and the opponent is a big shot in this world. Furthermore, even though I know that she's the kidnapper of my younger sister, I still trust that person.”

“A big shot — could I ask who it is?”

“It's Daijiro-san — the woman who entrusted this item bag to us.”

“Daijiro-san ... no way ...”

Suzuki found it unbelievable.

“Daijiro-san is a woman!?”

That's what you're surprised about?

Well, I was surprised too.

(223) To the smuggling group's hideout

After he reconfirmed the fact that Daijiro-san was female, we put it aside and

bade Schreyll to proceed, disguising my job as Pirate for a time.

Suzuki cautioned me to avoid getting asked about my job as we exit the town. If the 《Job Seeing Gem》 that is used when entering town was used on me, I would be treated as a criminal. I just only found out that the gem was called the 《Job Seeing Gem》.

Ultimately, the smuggling crew would only contact us at night so we returned to the luxurious inn that Suzuki stayed in to wait.

When we returned, Haru and the other girl's were surrounded by a dark atmosphere.

In particular, I was concerned about how Haru and Carol only glanced at me when I returned and didn't say a single word.

Did I do something bad?

It was Kanon who broke the silence.

“Actually, there might be people in this continent who know of Daijiro's whereabouts or aims. I was just telling Marina and the others that.”

“Really?”

“Yup, the Hero Alessio and the Magician Hagg. They were once Daijiro's companions.”

I see — Alessio and Daijiro certainly did appear riding on the Dragon Lord during the disturbance at Dakyat and protected the town of Ferruit.

They might actually know about Daijiro-san's goal and her exact location.

“Do you know their locations?”

“Kind of. They should currently be in the Arundel Kingdom.”

Arundel Kingdom — where Florence and Belasra are located in. In other words, the country I arrived in after my transfer.

“What about the other person?”

“The slave merchant called Quince. It's a coincidence but she is an important person to Carol-chan here.”

This time, she named an unexpected person.

Quince-san is the bewitching girl who runs the slave business in the town of Belasra. A person who can pull off the smoking pipe look well.

I purchased Carol from that Quince-san's slave trading post.

"That person runs a famous information store in secret and has information networks within the Adventurers Guild, the influential big shots in various countries and, on top of that, even within the Demon Lord army. Miri-sama and I almost died at Korat because of that connection."

Kanon said that with a cackling laugh but judging from Norn-san's pale complexion, they were probably involved in something seriously bad.

At any rate, Quince-san huh ...

"So I have a small suggestion, why not you split into two parties to look for Miri-sama?"

"Two parties?"

"That's right, for certain reasons, I cannot chase after Miri-sama. I have been given an order so I can't remain in this country and the Southern Continent. To not miss the heroes, I plan to head north for the town of Belasra."

"I-I wish ... to travel with Kanon. Returning to my former world is important but I also wish to return the favor to Kusunoki-san."

Malina said with her usual fearful tone.

Malina is close to Kanon so it would probably be easier for her to travel with her.

"And so, Ichino-sama. Regarding Quince-sama, it would be better for Carol to go along too."

"I also have the connection of the Arundel Kingdom town vigilante group so I believe I would be useful in looking for people."

Said Carol and Norn.

Both of them made sense.

But, that leaves —

“So Haru and I will travel to the Southern Continent.”

“—No, Master. Among us, only Kanon-san and I are capable of fighting. Moreover, I have met Alessio-sama when I was young so if I can get Master’s permission, I wish to stay on this continent with Carol and the others.”

Looking at Haru’s eyes filled with resolve, I asked.

“Are you concerned about the words Miri said to you?”

“Somewhat — but this is my wish.”

I see — in that case.

“Can I leave it to you?”

“Yes — I will do my best to meet Master’s expectations.”

I held her hand as I looked into her eyes that were filled with resolution.

“One month — 30 days from today. Please wait for me in the town of Florence. I will definitely come to get you.”

With my Home Return spell from the Lifestyle Magic, I could transfer to Norn’s house which has been recorded as Margaret-san’s house.

During that time, returning with Miri will be considered a success, once everything is over —

Oop, saying any more would be a death flag.

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That night, Suzuki and I contacted the smuggling crew.

Apparently, the smuggling crew’s hideout was a warehouse at the pier. However, after entering the warehouse, there were tons of wooden crates but human presence was —

“Below huh?”

The Presence Detection skill was working well.

I could feel the presence of dozens of people below the floor.

“As expected of Kusunoki-kun. Correct. The crates above are all dummies, the smuggling crew and the goods are all below ground.”

“But isn’t that quite worrying? If an investigator has the Presence Detection skill like me, it would be easily discovered.”

“Of course, there would normally be somebody with the concealment skill on standby and they would only be transferred somewhere else during work. Furthermore, they have dug quite deep underground. The smuggling crew leader mentioned that regular Presence Detection skills would not detect anything even if there were people there. After all, even my Presence Detection skill can’t detect it.”

So I could tell because I had the Presence Detection II skill.

The hole leading underground was actually in the toilet.

It was originally dug to let discharge flow into the ocean but the smuggling crew used it as a secret passage.

There was a single cubicle with an out-of-service notice posted on it and opening that door revealed a yellowed toilet seat.

Suzuki showed a slightly disgusted expression as he shifted the toilet seat and the floor tile.

Revealing a rope ladder and earth walls.

Even though it was probably not used as a toilet now, it might have been used as one in the past —

” ... 「Clean」.”

I cleaned the surrounding walls with Lifestyle Magic. The walls were made of earth so there was no visible change but it was a matter of feelings.

“I can understand the reason why Suzuki is acting alone. There’s no way I can let a girl enter through a place like this.”

“Hahaha, I’m glad you understand. Well, that’s not the only reason though.”

Suzuki smiled bitterly and went down the rope ladder first.

I followed after him.

From here on, I’ll have to act like a smuggling crew member.

... Becoming a Pirate lackey and a smuggling crew lackey, my life has kind of

gone off the rails.

Even though I wanted to live a clean and upright life.

(224) The men of the smuggling group

“Leaving all things aside, I’m surprised they managed to create this space. Any wrong move when digging under a beach and the seawater would have flooded the place.”

I said to Suzuki as I lowered myself down using the rope ladder.

Even a crack in the walls would cause seawater to flow in.

“No, it’s actually the opposite. This town is a reclaimed land made by a great Earth Magician but there was insufficient earth. The ground was hollowed out temporarily. He said that he would refill it immediately after it was over but that Earth Magician was advanced in age and died before he could refill the land so it remained as such. Since there was no issue with the stability of the land, the matter was eventually forgotten. And so it is now used as the hideout for the smuggling crew.”

“Wow ... they are surprisingly knowledgeable despite being a criminal organization.”

“It is the same in Japan and in this world, criminal use their heads more than others. Apart from the smuggling crew, the sovereign of this town also know about this space but it is apparently treated as a Pandora’s Box.”

“Even though not even hope has been left behind here after it was opened.”

That might be ironic coming from a person acting as a criminal clinging on to this Pandora’s Box that is devoid of hope.

After dropping down from the rope ladder, my nose was struck by a pungent smell. At the same time, I heard footsteps come closer.

A plump bearded man in green clothes approached. His hair was riddled with dandruff to the point of turning white. I wouldn’t be surprised if there were

fleas living in his hair.

He was probably the source of the smell.

His job was 【Commoner: Lv8】.

“Suzuki right? You’re here, who’s that?”

“Hey, Pavlov. This is my Pirate friend. He wants to go to the South Continent and said that he would help as a guard so I brought him here.”

“Master Suzuki’s friend? Welcome~ Call me Pavlov.”

Pavlov smiled while drooling and requested a handshake.

His hands were black with grime.

To be honest, I did not want to shake his hand.

This kind of filthiness was normal to a smuggling crew so they might not hire me if I gave a bad impression here.

(This is a mid-career interview! Pavlov is the interviewer! Can I reject a handshake initiated by the interviewer even with the reason that their hand was dirty?)

I asked myself.

As a veteran of hundred interviews (even though I lost all hundred), I showed a perfect business smile.

“It’s a pleasure to — nice meeting you, Pavlov.”

I nearly used honorific language but in order to not be made light of, I settled with a friendly greeting.

“Oo, Master Suzuki’s friend is a great guy. You’re the first to shake my hand.”

Pavlov smiled happily as he said that.

Shit, so his filthiness was not commonplace in the smuggling crew.

Furthermore, he was even aware that he was filthy.

“Hey, Pavlov. Do you want me to clean you up with the Clean spell from the Lifestyle Magic?”

“Hn-, is Master Suzuki’s friend a magic user?”

“Yeah, I’m good with magic too.”

“I see, then if you don’t mind?”

“Leave it to me.”

I mean, I have to clean him with as soon as possible. My lungs were hurting every time I breathed.

I cleaned every corner of Pavlov’s body with Clean.

His beard was unkempt but he no longer had dirt and dandruff in his hair.

Even more surprising was that the green clothes he wore turned white. The Clean spell did not have the function of bleaching so it seemed like the green coloration actually came from mold.

I also took the chance to apply Clean on myself.

“I feel so clean now — Thanks.”

“No no, I should be thanking you for letting me cast Clean on you —”

“I’ll lead you to the boss.”

Pavlov said as he lumbered away.

“Thanks, Kusunoki-kun. Actually, I was having trouble with Pavlov’s smell too.”

“I figured — but why is the smuggling crew using a guy like him?”

“Beats me? I’m guessing they don’t have enough manpower?”

Suzuki didn’t know the reason too.

We walked down the wide underground space. After a while, I noticed not only a ton of cargo but even small boats.

Clearly, they would not fit through the hole in the warehouse so there was probably a separate exit.

But was there a reason why they placed a small boat at a place like that?

“The boss is here.”

” ... Amazing.”

Standing there was a log house.

I didn't expect that there would not only be a boat underground but even a constructed house.

Turning a blind eye to how I have not only a sailboat and a log house in My World but even a field and hot spring facilities, I was surprised by the energy of the smuggling crew.

But there was a ceiling here after all so was there a need to go out of the way to build a house?

“Well then, this is as far as I go.”

Pavlov said and returned back the way we came.

Suzuki said that he was forbidden to approach the smuggling crew members due to his stench.

Then, Suzuki knocked on the door with practiced hand movements.

There was no reply.

After knocking again,

“There is truth beyond the twilight.”

The door opened after he said some confusing phrase.

— Shouldn't they ask for the password even before we enter the warehouse?

As I thought to myself, this time, the stench of alcohol struck my nose. My nose was having a terrible day.

I was seriously glad that Haru wasn't with us.

If she was around, she would have fainted when we met Pavlov and she would have gotten drunk when we opened this door.

Ten men exited when the door opened.

Glancing at their jobs, there were Thieves and Pirates and even Bandits.

It was a parade of criminals.

A man with the Pirate job stepped forward.

It seemed like he was the smuggling crew leader.

“Mister Suzuki, that person is —”

Oh, he’s asking about me right off the bat.

Well, that was to be expected.

“He is my friend, I brought him because he wants to reach the South Continent and he offered to work as a guard. His name is —”

“I know. Ichinojo-san right?”

“”Eh?””

Suzuki and I exclaimed at the same time.

Why did he know my name? Although he made a questionable misunderstanding like Jofre.

“After making that much disturbance in this town (Port Kobe), the news would naturally travel even until here.”

Shit, I didn’t think that far.

Then, he would know that I was not a Pirate —

“The Pirate Ichinojo right?”

I see, so acting as a Pirate in Port Kobe actually worked out well in the end.

Does this mean I’m on the track to get tons of jobs?

“I’m glad you know about me. Then, hire me as your guard — ”

“No, there is no longer any need for that. Mister Suzuki, we also no longer need you. We now have an excellent guard with us. Great Master, please come out.”

Ah, there was a single presence remaining inside the house, so it was the Great Master huh?

The person who came out from the house was,

【Death Warrior: Lv39】

A man who seemed to have excellent skill in swordsmanship.

No, it was discourteous to say 'seemed'. He was probably actually skilled.

"With Great Master here, we no longer need Mister Suzuki and Ichinojo-san. I apologize."

"In other words, we're not needed as guards because this man is stronger than us?"

"I am glad that you guessed it."

"Hmph, then, if I prove that I am stronger than this person, you will hire me?"

I said as I drew my sword from its sheath.

(225) The Hauling Company Leader

This chapter would be from the Smuggling Crew Leader's point of view.

My name is Kusso. A 45-years-old self-proclaimed Merchant.

I worked as an accountant-cum-negotiator for twenty years in a Hauling Company and finally became a leader of this Hauling Company as of last year.

It has already been eighteen years since my job changed from Merchant to Thief. The leader at that time said that I would not fall to the Thief job as long as I do not directly steal goods but it seemed that even just knowingly aiding to transport stolen goods would cause one to fall to the Thief job.

However, I do not believe that I am doing anything bad.

As I mentioned before, we are a Hauling Company – I merely transport the goods I have been entrusted with. It was just that there were many counterfeit articles and requests to transport goods to other countries to evade taxation; I did not intentionally trouble anybody.

A Hauling Company that breaks the law like mine – well, some people call us a smuggling crew – is very profitable. After reaching the executive level as an accountant-cum-negotiator, in a single return voyage, I would be paid an amount I would take about three years to earn when I was a Merchant. Furthermore, after becoming a leader, not only could I hire prostitutes from the town for all my members and have wild merrymaking every night, I could also get a fake identity just by bribing the military police and openly walk around the town.

Regular people might find it surprising but an organization like this paid well. After all, the upper echelons understood that the company was held together by gold. Well, there were also disposable idiots being used but I was not a petty underling like that.

Being in charge of accounting and negotiations was pretty much the same as controlling the entire Hauling Company. Irreplaceable goods will have to be

handled carefully. And now I have moved to the side that has to be treated carefully. Speaking of irreplaceable things, that included the Great Master I found.

For illegal negotiations, most cases devolved into fights in the end. For that reason, there was a need for a strong individual.

The Great Master had the job Death Warrior that was rarely seen even among the criminal jobs, said to only be achievable by criminals who reach mastery in Pugilist.

Furthermore, he was a former slave with a high tier job even above that of Gladiator, a Pugilist-type job as well. He was told that he would be released from slavery once he wins a hundred matches consecutively in the Coliseum which he actually did but immediately after he was released from slavery, he murdered his former master with the sword he killed his opponent with and fled.

He had an advanced tier job and it would be ridiculous to even compare him against the Bandit Suzuki who I hired a month ago.

Naturally, the Thief Ichinojo he brought along was like a baby in comparison.

“With Great Master here, we no longer need Mister Suzuki and Ichinojo-san. I apologize.”

I told them along with an insincere apology.

Either way, I intend to pay Suzuki the penalty fee according to the contract and I did not sign a contract with Ichinojo. There was no need to apologize.

I figured that there wouldn't be any issue even if they tried to dispute it as I could solve it just by handing them some money but it didn't go as imagined.

“In other words, we're not needed as guards because this man is stronger than us?”

Ichinojo was far quicker on the pickup than I had imagined.

A man like that would live long as a criminal and I found it likeable.

Even if I don't hire him as a guard, it might be good to hire him as a crew member.

“I am glad that you guessed it.”

“Hmph, then, if I prove that I am stronger than this person, you will hire me?”

Let me correct myself, it seemed that Ichinojo was an idiot who can't discern the difference between his and his opponent's abilities.

Well, idiots are still likeable too, I can have the Great Master defeat not only Ichinojo but also Suzuki who I have ended the contract with so that I don't have to pay the penalty fee.

“Great Master, what do you think? Why don't you test your skills here? Of course, I will pay the fee.”

I tossed a pouch with silver coins in them to Great Master as I said that.

” ”

The Great Master received it without a word and kept it inside his sleeve before pulling his sword out.

It seemed that he was motivated to go.

“Since we're both criminals, there's no need to hold back right?”

” ... Absurd.”

The Great Master was angered by how Ichinojo could still not understand the difference in ability.

Immediately after that.

There was a loud sound.

— Disappeared!?

How shocking. I knew that the Great Master was strong but I never imagined that he could move even faster than my eyes could register.

That sound just now, was it the sound of the Great Master kicking off the ground or the sound of Ichinojo getting sliced?

With such a swift slash, that Ichinojo was probably no longer in this world — ”
..... Eh?”

Ichinojo was standing there with a smile on his face.

No way, then what about the Great Master?

I turn my head to look around.

“Wha ...”

The Great Master had crashed into the wall and had slightly sunk into it.

“Mo— ... mortified.”

“What mortified! You’re just all show!”

I snatched the silver coin pouch from the sleeve of the Great Master — no, the Death Warrior, and “Great Master! That power is amazing! By all means, please travel with us!”

I said and handed Great Master Ichinojo the silver coin pouch with another pouch added as compensation.

Hahaha, with this my smuggling crew — no, my Hauling Company is secure!

(226) Smartphone charger

I was on guard against the unknown strength of the Death Warrior Great Master. He had drawn his sword and it looked like it would hurt if he cut me with something like that, so I performed a flying kick in hope of disarming just his sword but when I returned to my original spot, the Death Warrior Great Master was already embedded in the wall.

I didn’t raise my level so I probably did not murder him but I felt a little apologetic.

Even if he had a criminal job, it was possible that he had to commit the crime due to circumstances beyond his control.

However, thinking about it carefully, anybody who has been hired to be the guard for a smuggling crew would naturally be a villain too ... so I relegated the responsibility and looked at the smuggling crew leader.

He started calling me 'Great Master' and passed me a pouch packed with silver coins as the contract fee.

Each of the pouch contents was a hundred silver coins, or in other words, one gold coin worth — ten thousand sense. In that case, I thought to myself that wouldn't it be better to just pass two gold coins to me? But gold coins could not be used in regular shops and it might be traceable if they went to a moneychanger to change them to silver coins, so silver coins were probably the better choice.

In fact, I had many pieces of gold coins but apart from Carol using them when she purchases goods from the trading store and when I used them to purchase Haru, most of them lay untouched at the bottom of my item bag.

Speaking of gold coins, it was equivalent to a million yen, right? Even in Japan fast-food restaurants, just paying with a ten thousand yen note would warrant a special confirmation call saying 'Received ten thousand yen', so it would lead to panic if you pass them a million yen — Ah no, the cashier would just take out the topmost ten thousand yen note and return the remaining 99 pieces of ten thousand yen notes and the change. In a past commercial, there was a scene where the person said something along the lines of 'Manager, received a million yen' but something as silly as that has probably never happened before. *(TL: In Japan, a million yen is just a bundle of 100 pieces of ten thousand yen notes.)*

Ah, I kind of derailed there a little but nevertheless, I would get twenty thousand sense just by acting as the guard for a single smuggling round-trip — two million yen huh?

Smuggling sure is profitable after all. (Well, they smuggle precisely because it is profitable.) "So, where is the ship?"

"Yes, the ship is even further underground. The loading of the goods will be completed shortly so Great Master Ichinojo and Master Suzuki please relax here for now."

The smuggling group leader said to me before he addressed his subordinates.

"Oi, bastards! Rest time is over! Hurry up and move the goods!"

""""Yes, boss!""""

“Don’t call me boss! That makes it sound like we are criminals! Call me Director!”

The leader man shouted angrily. Incidentally, his job was Thief so he was undeniably a criminal.

“Man, that was brilliant work, Kusunoki-kun. Perhaps you are actually stronger than I am?”

“Hmm, no idea? We’re free for now so what do we do?”

“Shall we read some comics? You still have more right?”

“I have 『This is Shibu』 if you want to read it.”

“『This is Shibuya district’s police box in front of Yoyogi Park』!? Wah, I read that. How many volumes do you have?”

“I have everything until the last volume.”

“Until the last volume!? Eh, 『This is Shibu』 ended? You’re kidding, I thought that it would have lasted forever.”

Suzuki was extremely shocked. Well, 『This is Shibu』 was still serializing when this guy came to this world so there’s no wonder that he was surprised.

“The broadcasting for 『It might be okay to smile』ended too.”

“Heh, I see.”

It seemed that he wasn’t really interested in that as he had begun quietly reading the 198 volumes of 『This is Shibu』 that I lent to him.

I was bored so I took out my smartphone.

“Smartphone!?”

He showed the most amount of surprise until now.

“Eh, why — don’t tell me, you made a stable battery using magic — ”

“No way no way. But Miri that girl brought a generator over.”

“Generator!? Your younger sister does amazing things as usual ... was she planning to go camping or something before her transfer?”

“Nope, apparently she was climbing Mount Fuji.”

“She climbed Mount Fuji while carrying a generator!?”

Well, in Japan without an item bag, that was something impossible for a single person.

Although it seemed that Miri was capable of using Space-Time Magic so that was easy for her.

“Hey, Kusunoki-kun. Could you charge my smartphone too?”

“What’s the model?”

“Lphone 4S.”

“It’s the same model as my previous phone. I have a spare battery.”

I handed the spare battery to Suzuki as he thanked me and I took out a solar panel battery from my item bag.

“A solar panel battery too ... was this from your younger sister too?”

“She brought three over.”

“Why was she holding so many ... forget it, that’s a great help. Are you sure I can borrow this?”

“I’ll give it to you. My current smartphone is an Anbroid so I can’t use that. I have five solar panel batteries for Anbroid anyway.”

“Thanks.”

Suzuki thanked me and directly connected the spare battery.

After a while, he pressed the power button.

“It works ... thank god.”

“Did the battery run flat?”

“Yup, it ran flat just as I came to this world. I forgot to charge it the day before.”

“I see —”

With the nostalgic startup sound, the smartphone booted up.

“Out of service as expected.”

Suzuki said the given fact.

“Well, we’re underground after all.”

I replied with the appropriate reply.

Then, Suzuki looked at a picture.

I thought he saved some doujinshi but he was actually looking at a photo of a man that looked like a doctor.

“Is that —”

“My father. It’s been three years since I last saw him.”

“I see —”

My smartphone didn’t have a photo of my father. I changed the phone a year ago and didn’t transfer the data.

Father’s photo huh — while thinking that there was probably a funeral portrait of father in the item bag Miri left behind, I started reading the electronic books I downloaded onto my smartphone when I was in Japan.

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Suzuki and I both ate the chicken brand instant ramen together. The surrounding people were drooling from the smell but after spectating my fight with the Death Warrior Great Master, they didn’t dare to approach us for fear of stepping on the tiger’s tail.

“Whew, it’s delicious. The chicken brand instant ramen is the tastiest after all.”

“Agreed, it is extraordinary once you crack an egg over it.”

Pavlov approached as we both ate.

“That smells amazing.”

He stared into the contents of the bowl without displaying any fear toward the two of us.

“Hey, Pavlov. Want to eat together?”

“Is it okay?”

“Sure, right? Kusunoki-kun.”

“You are seriously a good-looking guy down to your character — sure, Pavlov. Let’s eat together.”

He didn’t smell bad anymore and I felt guilty with just the two of us eating good food.

I placed chicken ramen into Pavlov’s bowl and poured boiling water in.

“Digging in!”

“Ah, wait ...”

“Delicious!”

The chicken ramen didn’t even boil for a second before Pavlov took it out from the boiling water with his bare hands and ate it in a single bite.

It was my bad that I didn’t explain it beforehand but — wasn’t it hot?

After that, Pavlov drank up all the chicken ramen soup ... or rather, the hot water.

“Hey, Pavlov! The preparations are done! It’s your turn now! Great Master Ichinojo and Master Suzuki please come over too! It’s time to set off!”

It seemed that it was time to go.

The two of us were led by the leader man, with Pavlov following behind, as we descended the stairs leading underground.

That was when I saw a huge ship there.

But —

What’s the meaning of this? There was a ship but no water at all.

(227) Onward to the great ocean

All the members boarded the ship without saying a word so we boarded as

well.

There was a large amount of meat placed on the ship and Pavlov was eating that alone.

Just moments ago they treated him as an outcast so why was he the only person eating now?

There were even more confusing scenes.

It was abnormal to find a ship underground but I was more shocked to find that there was no water.

It was the same as when Pionia constructed a ship in My World.

But in Pionia's case, I had magic capable of bringing it out but ... hn?

"Are we moving the ship to the sea using transfer magic?"

"Ooo! As expected of Great Master, you caught on quick. That's right."

The leader man praised me exaggeratedly.

Although that was all I could come up with.

I figured that there wasn't an elevator capable of carrying the ship in this world.

"My acquaintance is capable of using Warp after all."

I replied appropriately with an ambiguous answer.

Suzuki tilted his head after hearing my reply.

"But according to my knowledge, transfer magic expends greater MP the further the distance and the heavier the mass. It shouldn't be possible to transfer a giant object like a ship."

"That's completely correct, Master Suzuki. But there is a man capable of doing that — it is Pavlov who is eating his fill there."

Pavlov?

"Yes, when Pavlov was 20 years old, he changed to a job called Saver and discovered a unique skill called 《Magical Power Savings》."

"Magical Power Savings?"

“Yes. All humans possess MP. MP will be consumed when using magic or skills that will naturally recover after that but it is impossible to recover over a person’s maximum MP. However, for the owner of Magical Power Savings, when they reach their maximum MP, they can save up to a hundred times of their original MP by generating three percent of their natural MP recovery amount — in other words, it won’t be an exaggeration to say that Pavlov has a hundred times the magical power of an ordinary person.”

“A hundred times ... that’s amazing. So there was a skill like that.”

That was a skill that all magic-users would covet.

If I had that, I could probably continuously cast Boost Ancient Nova against the Leviathan.

“Of course, there are drawbacks as well. Once he saved up to 10 times his MP, he would face MP Excess — the opposite condition of MP Depletion, disabilities would appear in the brain once he saves up to 20 times his MP while various bodily functions would be affected when he saves up to 50 times his MP. Furthermore, the saved magical power would still continue to affect him even if he switches his job to Commoner so it is extremely dangerous.”

” ... So Pavlov now — ”

“Yeah, currently he possesses over 60 times his maximum MP. Only with that is it possible to transfer the entire ship to the ocean with transfer magic.”

Is that so?

Pavlov is just a Commoner and only Level 8.

His MP shouldn’t be that high. Even with 60 times that MP, would it be possible to transfer the ship?

Even Miri mentioned that with me tagging along, she could not transfer that far.

“Is Pavlov a Magician?”

“No, he is just a Commoner. Originally I wanted to feed him experience points to change job to Apprentice Magician and it would be easier but people who switch job to Apprentice Magicians are scrutinized by the police who register

Magicians.”

Hoh, so there are such drawbacks to changing job to Apprentice Magicians normally.

I didn't change job through the legal means so I didn't know that.

“And so, I made him drink magical power enhancing medicine — drinking it would increase his maximum MP. Well, it was an inferior product so there seem to be various side effects.”

This guy actually made him drink such dangerous medicine.

What a guy.

“Are you thinking that I am a bad guy? But to Pavlov, I am his savior. When I found him, he had been discarded by the slave dealers. He was in the state of having accumulated 100 times of his MP, he couldn't even walk. That was natural. As a Commoner, he didn't have any means to consume MP. If I didn't make full use of my wiles and obtained a magic stone to use Warp magic, he would not have a means to expend MP and would have died.”

I could not deny that.

If everything he said was the truth, then he would probably not have been able to survive.

“Nevertheless, I still treat him courteously, no? He is an indispensable man after all. That's why, before he uses transfer magic, I provide him with the best food so that he doesn't have an empty stomach.”

” ... That's true, it seems as tasty as the food I ate.”

The person who said that was — Death Warrior Great Master. It seemed that he was not fired.

Apparently his contract fee was paid in advance so it would have been a waste to fire him then and there.

Nevertheless, this Great Master, he speaks with 'sessha' and ends with 'degozaru' huh? *(TL: Sessha and degozaru were generally used in the past, mostly by samurai)*

What era did this man come from ... or was my translation function malfunctioning?

Suzuki also had a wry smile after hearing Death Warrior's words so it didn't look like I was the only person.

"And so, Great Master Ichinojo and Master Suzuki. We will be departing shortly. Some people may experience transfer sickness so please refrain from eating until we complete the transfer."

... Then was it alright for Pavlov to eat?

Well, just like how the driver was the least likely to be carsick, I guess it would be fine.

It took another five minutes before the smuggling crew finished preparing the ship.

Without any instructions, the ship we were on suddenly appeared in the middle of the ocean.

However, in front of our eyes was —

"A squid?"

"Isn't it an octopus?"

While Suzuki and I were tilting our heads in confusion, the ship crew all pointed at the giant squid? octopus?.

""""Kr Kr Kraken!""""

After seeing the Kraken that appeared in front of the ship, the smuggling crew all started fleeing.

A person even jumped off the ship to flee (I could vaguely see land but it didn't seem like a distance that was swimmable so he probably lost himself) but the Kraken wrapped him up in an instant.

"It's an octopus then since it is a Kraken."

I remembered because Carol talked about it before.

"I see, what do we do?"

“Naturally, it would be troubling if the ship sinks — so it shall be an octopus grill party tonight!”

I exclaimed as I drew my sword.

Author's note:

The Kraken in this world are Octopus.

(228) A week's voyage passes in the blink of the eye

A fragrant smell spread across the ship.

Coming from takoyaki — or rather, grilled octopus arms. As one might expect, it would be impossible to haul that huge body onto the ship so only a single arm was cut off and the remainder was left to sink into the ocean.

Suzuki performed the last attack so I didn't gain any experience points. We did form a party but we disbanded it after I had my job changed.

It was a fruitless victory.

“Here, shoyu.”

I handed shoyu to Suzuki.

“Thank you, Kusunoki-kun. Uwah, it's been a long time since I smelled this scent.”

“It's meant to be lightly salted so don't put too much.”

“Yup, I'm from a family of doctors so I at least understand the daily recommended intake of salt.”

He sure is proud of it, I thought to myself as we proceeded to eat the Kraken arms.

It was a little bland but still tasty nonetheless.

It had been grilled sufficiently so there shouldn't be any worry of parasites ... I mean, even if there were parasites resilient to heat, they could be cured by just

using Cure.

“Are you guys not eating?”

I still needed to pretend to be comrades.

I asked everyone who was surrounding and looking at us from a distance — but nobody came over.

Oi oi, even though it’s just a single arm, we can’t finish it with just the two of us so there’s no need to be polite.

What dreary people.

“It can’t be helped, Kusunoki-kun. Around these parts, it’s said that octopus is the Devil’s minion. Let alone the Kraken that has sunk countless ships which, to the seafarer, is the Devil itself so to speak. They would never imagine eating something like that.”

Ah, I recall that in the West, outside the Mediterranean coastal area, not many people eat octopus and squid, right? I heard that they are called devil fishes and most people avoid them. Their disgusting appearance might play a role but the reason seemed to be because, in the Old Testament, fish without fins and scales are said to be abominations.

I believe the fact that the people in the West don’t regularly eat my favorite unagi was because of that descriptor too.

After all, unagi appears to be scale-less fish too. Well, unagi actually has scales under their skin so it should be fine to eat them even if one follows the Old Testament.

“Could I have some?”

It was Pavlov who asked.

“I’ll have some too.”

And the former guard Death Warrior.

Leaving aside Pavlov, I was surprised that the great master would come over.

“Sure, we have plenty.”

It was quite uncomfortable to be surrounded by people.

Hah, even though I wanted to ask about many things. Well, I'll just ask Suzuki.

"Hey, Suzuki. What kind of place is the island we're heading to for the exchange?"

"It's called Deijima Island."

"Deijima?"

It sounds like Japan's Dejima Island.

Suzuki gave a wry grin when he saw my face contort. He was probably having the same thoughts.

According to Suzuki, Deijima Island was located within the territory of a great country on the Southern Continent.

There were towns along the coast on the north and south side of the island. It was about the size of Awaji Island ($592\text{km}^2/228\text{ sq mi}$) but the Eastern side was a desert while the central region had towering mountains so the hospitable areas were limited. In addition, there was a labyrinth inside the desert so there were many adventurers too.

"It is an island governed by Earl Paul — "

Suzuki explained.

He taught me details like Earl Paul's past, the composition of his family and his personality.

Speaking of aristocrats, there was the incident with Oregeru so I felt that it would be a little troublesome but going by what I heard, he didn't seem to be a bad person.

Well, Oregeru was not a bad person either.

"Master Suzuki is very knowledgeable regarding Deijima. Did you investigate it on your own?"

"Ahaha, it takes one to know one. I asked a professional to gather information from behind the scenes."

Great Master Death Warrior showed a doubtful expression when Suzuki replied with a smile.

Does this guy perhaps suspect that Suzuki and I are enemies of this smuggling ring?

” ... Octopus has a strange taste ... it’s like eating clay.”

It seemed like Pavlov wasn’t fond of octopus.

Great Master Death Warrior took the grilled octopus skewer but wasn’t eating much. As expected, his aim was not the octopus but to probe us.

We can’t let our guards down around this man.

A week has passed since the start of the voyage.

It was hard to say that the voyage was going very well. Since I was quite free.

There was no way of knowing if nobody was watching me so I could not go to My World either. Only Sheena No.3 and Pionia were left in My World but I wonder if they were getting along fine? Those two are similar in some ways so I felt that it would be okay.

I thought of helping with the voyage but Suzuki warned that if I helped the smuggling crew and became friendly with them, it would be difficult for me when we have to fight them.

He was right so in the end, I passed time by fishing.

Before coming here, I raised my Farmer level by harvesting tomatoes and such so my Fisherman job had not had the time to bloom.

Now that I’m at sea, I guess I’ll raise my Fisherman level.

Even with 400 times growth speed, a week of fishing was equivalent to seven years so — it grew to Level 8 but I gained all kinds of strange skills.

「Match」 which sounded like it was a skill that could be used outside of fishing and the 「Thread Manipulation」 skill which sounded like I could become a good puppeteer.

Well, they would probably be useful for something.

In terms of happening events, there was one huge happening event.

Even though it has only been a week, the smuggling crew’s body odor was terrible. Although it didn’t reach the level of Pavlov when we first met him, it

was as smelly as Kendo practitioners who had trained in full equipment continuously for five hours.

If I don't apply Clean on them, I would be the first to die.

Just as I had that thought.

"I see the island."

A loud cry came from the lookout post.

An island from here? — Oh, I see it.

Rather than the island, it was more like the tip of the mountain on the island.

That's Deijima — the exchange of these guys (the smuggling crew) would begin there.